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HOUSE RESOLUTION 223

By Newton

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ray Melton, Meigs County
Assistant Director of Schools, on the occasion of
his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have chosen as their life's work the teaching profession and who have committed their energy and abilities to the education of our children, performing with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Ray Melton is one such estimable person who has served with probity for 39 years as an educator, since 1973 with Meigs County Schools; and

WHEREAS, Ray Melton is the son of Glen and Lora Mae Melton, who moved from Crossville to Ten Mile in Meigs County when Ray was a high school sophomore; his father was pastor of Ten Mile Baptist Church, and Ray enrolled in Meigs County High School where he played basketball and was a starter in his senior year; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from high school, Mr. Melton went to work for Sutton and Hayes Construction, and worked during the building of an Industrial Arts and Science Building at Hiwassee College; he then enrolled at Hiwassee, earned an Associate of Arts degree and played another year of basketball; and

WHEREAS, Ray Melton then transferred his Hiwassee credits to East Tennessee State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree; his next stop was the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he acquired as Master's degree in Industrial Technology and School Administration; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Mr. Melton secured a teaching position a Bearden High School and married his wife of 37 years, Brenda Edgemon, a daughter of Joe and Ann Edgemon of Ten Mile; he taught in technical fields, such as engineering, architecture and drafting, at Bearden High for ten years, producing a number of Model Home Contest winning students; and

WHEREAS, in 1973 Ray Melton was offered the position of principal of K-12 at Meigs County High School and Elementary School; he quickly accepted the offer, as his oldest daughter was ready to enter the first grade, and he believed that smaller schools offer children more opportunities for participation in activities and more individual attention from teachers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton remained in the principal's office until 1982, when Superintendent Robert Green offered him a central office position including the roles of vocational director and assistant director of schools; he has been involved in establishing curriculum, vocational education, training of teachers and administrators, and conducting administrative evaluations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton is an active and important part of his community, serving on the Decatur Planning Commission and as a Decatur alderman; he is a long-time member of East Athens Baptist Church, where he teaches the Senior Couples Adult Sunday school class; and

WHEREAS, Ray Melton's years of teaching Sunday school almost equal his years as a professional educator; his students and his children benefited from the values that entered his teaching and moral philosophy, and two of his daughters became teachers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he is fortunate to enjoy the love and support of his wife Brenda, herself a certified teacher, and daughters Angela Ellis, Sharon Wallace and Cheryl Kay Jones; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Ray Melton has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and superiors alike, as well as generations of students in Bearden and Meigs County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we extend to Ray Melton our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.